

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 358
By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to honor Jerry Hayes and to adopt his song,
“Thanks to Them”, as an official state song.

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should honor those important veterans who continue to promote Americanism and patriotism throughout their venerable lives; and

WHEREAS, one such person is Jerry Hayes, a distinguished Vietnam veteran and former United States Marine who continues to serve our nation by virtue of his amazing musical talents; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hayes performed more than 60 musical concerts last year in our schools; his “Tribute to American Veterans” show has been praised by all who have had the good fortune to see it; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his efforts to promote patriotism, Jerry Hayes was awarded one of the highest accolades from the Veterans of Foreign Wars: the Americanism Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hayes has also had the distinct honor of having his outstanding musical composition, “Thanks to Them”, adopted as an official song to honor World War II veterans by the state of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, upon this the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, it is appropriate that this General Assembly also adopt “Thanks to Them” as the official state song honoring Tennessee World War II veterans; and

WHEREAS, this touching tribute to the members of our armed forces reads as follows:

Our young men fight this nation's wars. Sometimes I wonder just what for, then I see my wife and son as they smile! I think of all my friends and then, that I'll never see again and I hope that their dying was worth while!

For those who died in foreign lands, we should all give a damn! 'Cause we're all still walking FREE! These wars were fought on foreign soil! No shots were fired here at all! No blood was shed upon our ground! Thanks to Them!

Now there's a meaning to this song. I don't know if I'm right or wrong. I fought with them; we laughed, we cried. I saw them when they fell and died!

For those fathers and mothers who lost their sons, we can only pray this war was won. And pray they did not die in vain, and peace and freedom still remain.....THANKS TO THEM!

WHEREAS, our state was fortunate to have Mr. Hayes perform this worthy composition on May 1, 1995, at the commemoration ceremony of the 50th anniversary of the end of the second World War; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that each and every day we call upon all of our citizens to pay homage to the many veterans from our great state and nation; we can honor these men on a daily basis by adopting the song written by Mr. Jerry Hayes, "Thanks To Them", as an official state song; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Jerry Hayes for his efforts and adopt his song, "Thanks to Them", as an official song of the great state of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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